



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
Committee Statement  
LB 144**

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**Hearing Date:** January 31, 2007  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducer(s):** (McDonald)  
**Title:** Adopt the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

6	Yes	Senator(s): Johnson, Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Stuthman, Pankonin
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Gay

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**Proponents:**

Senator Vicki McDonald  
Dennis M. Byars  
Jerry Stilmock

Bruce Beins  
Annette Harmon  
Kathryn L. White

Mark Mailliard, M.D.  
Evelyn. V. McKnight

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Self  
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association  
Nebraska EMS Association  
Nebraska Nurses Association  
National Nurses Advisory Council for Liver Wellness and Hepatology  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Kathryn L. White

**Representing:**

Health and Human Services System

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 144 is a reintroduction of LB 891 (2006). The bill adopts the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act (act). The act terminates on December 31, 2007.

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Section 2 creates the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force (task force) consisting of 18 members.

Section 3 requires appointment of task force members on or before May 1, 2007. The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature or his or her representative is designated as chairperson of the task force. The Health and Human Services Committee is required to provide research and administrative support to the task force. For budgetary purposes, the task force is placed within the Legislative Council.

Section 4 provides for meetings of the task force at the call of the chairperson and authorizes reimbursement of task force members for necessary expenses.

Section 5 provides duties for the task force. The task force is required to “develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the increasing epidemic of hepatitis C in Nebraska.” Contents of the plan are prescribed.

Section 6 requires the task force to report on its activities and recommendations for policies and potential legislation to the Governor and the Health and Human Services Committee on or before December 31, 2007.

Section 7 contains an emergency clause.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendment (AM 297) is a technical amendment that revises provisions relating to the appointment of members to the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force. The amendment clarifies the Governor’s obligation to appoint certain members of the task force. The amendment also provides that task force members must be appointed within 30 days after the effective date of the bill. The bill as introduced required that members be appointed by May 1, 2007.

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**Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson**